



CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Summer 2023, Vol. 67, No. 2

CMPS Officers

President:
Stephanie Ferrero

Past-President:
Shelly Deisch

Vice President:
Embre Hall

Secretary/Treasurer:
Mel Nenneman

TWS Council Representative:
Andrea Orabona

Members At-large:
Carl Bowden
Daly Edmunds
Heidi Plank
Ellie Tiege

Newsletter Editor:
Aleshia Rummel

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CMPS website:
<https://wildlife.org/cmp/>

CMPS President's Message

Howdy CMPS Members,

Annual elections for CMPS officers are here. Thank you to all the candidates for their willingness to step up and run. Thank you to all of you for planning to vote. In this newsletter edition, you will find the candidates' biographies, where you can get to know them, find out why they want to serve CMPS, and what they plan to contribute to CMPS.

Voting results on CMPS Membership dues from April 2023 were majority of respondents in support (96%, n = 163) of the change to provide additional funding for the Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant, CMPS awards, annual meeting sponsorship, workshops, and more. Effective July 1st, CMPS membership dues as a stand-alone option through the TWS portal will be \$5. The amount CMPS receives from the State Chapters for each member will remain the same. CMPS membership can be maintained by being a current member of one of the 7 State Chapters within CMPS. This change provides the opportunity to support CMPS at an elevated level, so we can do more together for the wildlife profession.

The 2023-2024 CMPS Mission and Strategic Plan is almost finished with Phase I of IV. One of the key goals for this six-month stage (January - June) is the initial review of the CMPS Bylaws. The last revision was in 2017. There will be opportunity for CMPS members to provide input in the coming year. CMPS also is working on an Operations Manual under the leadership of Past-President Shelly Deisch and Board Member At-Large Daly Edmunds. This living document will serve as a reference for how the CMPS Board functions, including how-to procedures for officers, which should help provide continuity during Board transitions and preserve important information. Find out other specific actions CMPS has been taking toward the vision on page 2.

Best wishes with summer field work and all your outdoor adventures!

- Stephanie Ferrero, President, Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS



Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Section Business

CMPS Mission and Strategic Plan: 2023—2024

VISION: The Central Mountains & Plains Section (CMPS) is a strong and effective voice of wildlife science, conservation, and management for the seven states of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

MISSION: To inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals in the CMPS region to sustain populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.

STRATEGIC GOALS: January-June 2023

1. Provide a platform for professional networking and leadership growth among CMPS members

- Offer a certification workshop
- Offer a federal employment workshop
- Circulate information on applying to TWS Leadership Institute to student chapters

2. Serve as a voice for science in regional, national, and international policy issues related to wildlife conservation

- Begin to strengthen relationship/engagement with CAN representatives in state chapters
- Participate in Conservation Affairs Network calls
- Disseminate relevant information to state chapters

3. Improve CMPS Board operations

- Create a replicable and robust budget
- Begin reviewing bylaws for revision
- Develop cmps-tws.org shared space for document sharing and storage, include development of clear process going forward

4. Establish framework for effective communication between the CMPS Board and membership

- Establish liaisons and representatives from each state, with identified duties
- Continue to improve communication platforms, such as newsletter

5. Value the diversity of all people by creating safe, equitable, and inclusive spaces for wildlife science and conservation

- Create a Diversity Committee with representatives from state chapters
- Add weblink from CMPS website to TWS DEI network

(Excerpted from: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iAnBpNRTTzzmvfVsJEUhcB19dZmUPWdQCdBJnk1fYU/edit?usp=sharing>)

Section Business

CMPS Elections

CMPS elections will open on June 15 and will close on July 15 (please see the email to all membership for the link to vote). This election cycle, CMPS must elect a President-elect and a member-at-large. Please see the position descriptions below, followed by the candidate biographies as you determine who to vote for. We appreciate the CMPS membership involvement in the elections process, and all the candidates who chose to run for a position!

ALL POSITIONS: Time commitments include approximately 6 virtual Board meetings per year. Serving on special committees and helping with CMPS Annual Business Meeting (held in conjunction with one of the 7 state's annual conference) is some additional time investment. Travel to one of the 7 states' conferences is elective but encouraged. Elected Board members will start their terms August 31, 2023.

PRESIDENT-ELECT. The President-Elect shall assist the President in administration of Section affairs and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. The President-Elect shall chair the Mission and Strategic Plan Review Committee. The Executive Board shall hear recommendations of this committee at the Annual Business Meeting. The President-Elect serves in this position for 1 year, then becomes President for 2 years, followed by Past-President for 1 year.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. Members-At-Large assist in general administration of Section business affairs as delegated by the President and serve on committees such as Audit, Membership, Nominations and Elections, Publicity, and Resolutions and Statements. Members-At-Large serve 2 year terms.



Great Plains Skink (*Plestiodon obsoletus*)

Section Business

CMPS Elections Candidate Biographies

Dustin Ranglack, Candidate for President-Elect

Dustin is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and field station leader at the Utah Field Station of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Service National Wildlife Research Center. Dustin grew up in Salt Lake City and attended Utah State University for both Wildlife Science Bachelor's and Ecology PhD. He did a one-year post-doc at Montana State University before accepting a faculty position at University of Nebraska-Kearney for 6.5 years. His current position in Utah focuses on human-wildlife conflict and continental scale conservation with bison and predators. After attending the TWS Leadership Institute, he wanted to be more involved and served as a faculty advisor.



Since Dustin is no longer UNK faculty, he wants to bring his experiences to the leadership of CMPS. Dustin's goal for CMPS is to become safer and more diverse section with better communication for everyone. CMPS is a place to professionally grow and our professional home.

Embere Hall, Candidate for President-Elect

Embere is the Vice President of CMPS for a year and half combined with her tenure as a Member-At-Large for the Board. She has been a member of the Wyoming Chapter of TWS for 17 years and served as President. She has learned the importance of all the roles that CMPS supports. She is dedicated to making a voice for science in wildlife conservation issues with talented and passionate professionals. She is hoping to focus on providing a platform for professional growth, networking, and the section's missions. She is the Science, Research and Analytical Support Unit Supervisor of Wyoming Game and Fish as well as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Wyoming. She wants to give back to CMPS as the section and society supported her in many ways and different levels.



Section Business

CMPS Elections Candidate Biographies

Heidi Plank, Candidate for Board Member At-Large

Heidi has been a TWS member since 1996 as a treasurer for her student chapter at UC Davis while being an undergraduate studying Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology. In 1997, Heidi graduated from UC Davis while working on various field crews in Oregon, Alaska, Utah, and California before pursuing a Wildlife Ecology master's degree from Utah State University. After receiving her master's, she worked on the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota then at the Tonto Basin Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. In 2007, Heidi and her family moved to the Western Slope of Colorado in Grand Junction. She has three dogs and two kids, as well as being a girl scout and boy scout leader for years. Heidi worked for the BLM for 13 years as a field office biologist before her current position with the Grand Valley Ranger District of the GMUG national forests. She enjoys floating the river, hiking, and gardening in her free time. She serves on the CMPS board and hopes to extend connections and support the section to better serve the chapters.



Rick Warhurst, Candidate for Board Member At-Large

Rick grew up in Kansas, got his Wildlife Management bachelor's from Kansas State University. He received his master's degree in Zoology based on his thesis on brood behavior of Giant Canada Geese in the Southwest Lake Erie Marsh Region of Ohio from Ohio State University. Before moving to North Dakota starting as a Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited, Rick served as an Assistant State Waterfowl Biologist for Ohio DNR in 1974-1977 as well as the manager of the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Management Area with Kansas Fish and Game Commission in 1977-1985.

In North Dakota, served several positions from Regional Biologist and Regional Biological Supervisor to Land Manager of Conservation Programs for DU. December of 2015, Rick retired after 31 years of service. The beginning of 2016, Rick worked part-time with North Dakota Natural Resources Trust and currently serving as the Central Flyway Representative on the North American Wetlands Conservation Act staff, coordinator of the North Dakota Action Group, and lead of the trust's wetland conservation.



Rick has been a TWS member since 1969 as well as CMPS in 1977, and North Dakota Chapter at 1985. Rick has served as President-Elect, President, and Past-President. He is currently serving as CMPS-NDCTWS liaison. With Rick's 50 years of experience with the CMPS Executive Board and Central Flyway challenges, Rick wants to stabilize the CMPS with perspective from the north. Rick enjoys the virtual meetings and different challenges across CMPS. With experience of agencies and organization, Rick wants to improve communication with everyone involved.

TWS Business

Take Action to Support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Help build support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) in the Senate – TWS and partners are working to build support for the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) in the U.S. Senate. In hopes of positive floor deliberations on the legislation, we are asking TWS members to write to their Senators to request their co-sponsorship of the bill.

Your Voice Matters!!! Senators need to hear from their constituents:

Call Them! Here's a [phone call script](#) that you can use to call your Senators to request co-sponsorship of the bill (or thank any senators who have [co-sponsored](#) the legislation).

Write Them! Contact your Senators directly using this [Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife action center](#). And if they are among the Senators who have [co-sponsored](#) the legislation, please thank them so they keep doing the right thing for wildlife!

Share this information with family and friends ... encourage them to speak up as well!





Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

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Upcoming Events

Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Norfolk, Virginia

July 12— 16, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <http://burkclients.com/JMIH/meetings/2023/site/index.html>

102nd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

Anchorage, Alaska

July 14— 20, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://imc13.com/>

Western Field Ornithologists 46th Annual Conference

Copper Mountain, Colorado

July 19 — 23, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://westernfieldornithologists.org/conference/>

Ecological Society of America 108th Annual Meeting

Portland, Oregon

August 6—11, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.esa.org/events/meetings/future-esa-meetings/>

American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting

London, Ontario

August 8—12, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://americanornithology.org/meetings/annual-meeting/>

International Grouse Symposium

Bialystok, Poland

September 11 — 15, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://igs2022.uwb.edu.pl/>

The 30th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society

Louisville, Kentucky

November 5 —9, 2023

MORE INFORMATION: <https://wildlife.org/network/conferences-network/>

Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Kanab, Utah

March 13 —15, 2024

MORE INFORMATION: TBD

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CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION DIRECTORY

STATE CHAPTERS

COLORADO

President Nate Bickford
President-Elect Nate Jones

KANSAS

President Adam Ahlers
President-Elect Andrew Ricketts

NEBRASKA

President Andrew Little
President-Elect Erin Considine

NORTH DAKOTA

President Bob Newman
President-Elect Phil Mastrangelo

SOUTH DAKOTA

President Daniel Kim
President-Elect Dennie Mann

UTAH

President Makeda Trujillo Hanson
President-Elect Barbara Sugarman

WYOMING

President Aly Courtemanch
President-Elect Anna Chalfoun

STUDENT CHAPTERS

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

President Remi Pattyn
Vice President Daniel Rice
Advisor Larissa Bailey

CSU-PUEBLO

President Grace Abbett
Vice President Paige Olson
Advisor Nate Bickford

WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY

President Annate'a Saylor
Vice President Erik Rathmann
Advisor Patrick Magee

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY, KANSAS

President Brandon Wheeler
Vice President Meagan Fernandez
Advisor William Jensen

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

President Tess Van Buren
Vice President Lydia Waner
Advisor David Haukos

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY, KS

President Isabelle Villafane
Vice President Ned Curfman
Advisor Andrew George

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, NEBRASKA

President Justin Gress
Vice President Kristin VanBeek
Advisor Teresa Frink

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-KEARNEY

President Phoebe Dunbar
Vice President Nicole Mittman
Advisors Dustin Ranglack & Melissa Wuellner

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

President Kaianna Hraban
Vice President Ben Breske
Advisor Andrew Little

WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, NEBRASKA

President Shayne Bennett
Vice President Amos Zelasney
Advisor Mark Hammer

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

President Anna Rustad
Vice President Patrick Kirkpatrick
Advisors Erin Gillam & Matt Smith

UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN, ND

President Anthony Hedley
Advisor Kit Schnaars
Uvino

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

President Brianna Ashworth
Vice President Levin Brandt
Advisor Susan Felege

VALLEY CITY STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTH DAKOTA

President Morgan Ohm
Vice President William Knudson
Advisor Bob Anderson

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

President Shelby Isensee
Vice President Alexandra Johnson
Advisor Bruce Eichorst

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, UTAH

President Jacob Barnes
Vice President Leslie Clark
Advisor Tom Smith

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

President Lily Martindale
Co-Vice President James Dye
Co-Vice President Kayla Hancey
Advisors Dave Dahlgren & Frank Howe & Dan MacNulty

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY, UTAH

President Jessica Frix
Advisor John Cavitt

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

President Devin Gearhart
Vice President Ema Lujan
Advisor Merav Ben-David